

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An aqueous emulsion, for addition to an aqueous gypsum slurry, comprising:

a hydrocarbon wax;
a polyolefin-maleic anhydride graft polymer; and
a polyvinyl alcohol.

2. (Original) The emulsion of claim 1 wherein said polyolefin-maleic anhydride graft polymer includes at least one maleic anhydride group grafted onto a polyolefin backbone.

3. (Original) The emulsion of claim 2 wherein said polyolefin backbone is polyethylene.

4. (Original) The emulsion of claim 1 wherein said hydrocarbon wax is a paraffin wax.

5. (Currently Amended) The emulsion of claim 1 wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is chosen from the group [comprising] consisting of partially [or] hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate, fully hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate and mixtures thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) The emulsion of claim 5 wherein the polyvinyl alcohol comprises at least 80 mol % hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate.

7. (Currently Amended) The emulsion of claim 1 wherein the hydrocarbon wax is selected from the group consisting of paraffin wax, [carnauba] carnauba wax, polyethylene wax, [synthetic wax esters, acid waxes, maleated hydrocarbons], maleated hydrocarbon waxes, hydrocarbon synthetic wax esters, hydrocarbon acid waxes, and combinations thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A gypsum slurry composition, for use in making gypsum products, comprising a mixture of:
- a) an aqueous gypsum slurry; and,
 - b) an emulsion comprising:
 - a hydrocarbon wax;
 - a polyolefin-maleic anhydride graft polymer; and
 - a polyvinyl alcohol.
9. (Original) The composition of claim 8 wherein said polyolefin-maleic anhydride graft polymer includes at least one maleic anhydride group grafted onto a polyolefin backbone.
10. (Original) The composition of claim 9 wherein said polyolefin backbone is polyethylene.
11. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 8 wherein said hydrocarbon wax is a [paraffin] paraffin wax.
12. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 8 wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is chosen from the group [comprising] consisting of partially [or] hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate, fully hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate and mixtures thereof.
13. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 12 wherein the polyvinyl alcohol comprises at least 80 mol % hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate.
14. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 8 wherein the hydrocarbon wax is selected from the group consisting of paraffin wax, [carnauba] carnauba wax, polyethylene wax[, synthetic wax esters, acid waxes, maleated hydrocarbons], maleated

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hydrocarbon waxes, hydrocarbon synthetic wax esters, hydrocarbon acid waxes, and
combinations thereof.